

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ROME 15555 231350Z

17  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
----- 051787

R 231325Z SEP 76  
FM AMEMBASSY ROME  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0131

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 15555

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, SWEL, IT  
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S MEETING WITH ANDREOTTI

SUMMARY: NOTING THAT I HAD JUST RETURNED FROM WASHINGTON, I BEGAN MY HOUR-LONG CALL ON PRIME MINISTER ANDREOTTI SEPTEMBER 22 BY REAFFIRMING THE FULL CONFIDENCE AND SUPPORT OF THE USG IN HIS LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNMENT. ANDREOTTI WAS CLEARLY APPRECIATIVE AND REITERATED HIS CONVICTION THAT USG HAD BEEN IN NO WAY CONNECTED WITH THE L'ESPRESSO ATTEMPT TO IMPLICATE HIM IN THE LOCKHEED SCANDAL. ANDREOTTI SAID THAT WHILE HE EXPECTS MANY DIFFICULTIES IN GETTING NEEDED LEGISLATION ENACTED BY PARLIAMENT, HE WAS OPTIMISTIC THAT NO PARTY WANTED TO BRING DOWN THE GOVERNMENT AT LEAST FOR THE NEXT SEVERAL MONTHS. THE PRIME MINISTER DESCRIBED THE EMERGENCY MEASURES TAKEN IN RESPONSE TO THE FRIULI DISASTER. END SUMMARY.

1. MENTIONING THAT I HAD JUST RETURNED FROM WASHINGTON WHERE I HAD MET WITH THE PRESIDENT AND RANKING DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS (THE SECRETARY BEING ABROAD), I BEGAN BY REAFFIRMING THE FULL CONFIDENCE AND SUPPORT OF THE USG IN THE PRIME MINISTER AND HIS GOVERNMENT. I SAID THAT I HAD FOUND GREAT SYMPATHY AND CONCERN FOR ITALY AMONG THESE OFFICIALS; THAT ALL WISHED TO BE AS HELPFUL AS POSSIBLE TO HIS GOVERNMENT; AND THAT ALL WERE IMPRESSED WITH THE BUSINESS-LIKE WAY IN WHICH HE WAS ATTEMPTING TO RESTORE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC STABILITY. ANDREOTTI RESPONDED BY STATING HIS APPRECIATION FOR THESE EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN AND SUPPORT. HE ALSO SAID THAT HE WAS  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ROME 15555 231350Z

CONVINCED THAT THE USG HAD NEVER BEEN CONNECTED WITH THE

L'ESPRESSO ARTICLE'S ATTEMPT TO IMPLICATE HIM IN THE LOCKHEED SCANDAL.

2. WE THEN TALKED ABOUT THE PARLIAMENTARY SESSION WHICH BEGINS NEXT WEEK. ANDREOTTI ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HE WILL FACE CONSIDERABLE DIFFICULTIES IN GETTING NEEDED LEGISLATION ENACTED, PARTICULARLY WITH THE PCI WHEN IT COMES TIME TO PRESENT SERIOUS STABILIZATION MEASURES. NONETHELESS, THE PRIME MINISTER EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT NOT PARTY WANTED TO BRING THE GOVERNMENT DOWN, AT LEAST FOR SEVERAL MONTHS. WHILE HE COULD NOT EXPECT COMPLETE SUPPORT FOR ALL OF HIS PROGRAM, HE WAS SANGUINE THAT A CONSENSUS COULD BE OBTAINED FOR PASSAGE OF THE MOST ESSENTIAL MEASURES.

3. IN EVALUATING THE CURRENT SITUATION AMONG THE SOCIALISTS AND OTHER LAY PARTIES, ANDREOTTI WAS OPTIMISTIC THAT THE DC COULD FORGE A NEW RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PSI. HOWEVER, HE THOUGHT IT WOULD TAKE TIME--AT LEAST THREE OR FOUR MONTHS--FOR ANY SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN THE PSI POSITION. CRAXI HAD YET TO ASSERT HIS LEADERSHIP OF THE PARTY BY FORMING A SOLID BASE OF SUPPORT. ANDREOTTI DISMISSED LA MALFA AS PRONE TO MAKING SWEEPING PRONOUNCEMENTS. IN PRACTICAL TERMS, HOWEVER, HE GOT ALONG WELL WITH PRI SECRETARY BIASINI AND SAID THAT HE CAN COUNT ON SUPPORT FROM THE LARGE MAJORITY OF PRI MEMBERS.

4. ANDREOTTI THEN OUTLINED SOME OF THE EMERGENCY MEASURES BEING UNDERTAKEN BY HIS GOVERNMENT IN RESPONSE TO THE NEW FRIULI DISASTER. HE SAID THAT THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS WERE CONSIDERABLE. AS THE REGIONAL GOVERNMENT (NOTE: A DC-LED GIUNTA) WAS NOT UP TO THE JOB, THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT HAD TO TAKE A MUCH MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN DIRECTING THE ASSISTANCE EFFORT. SPECIAL COMMISSIONER ZAMBERLETTI HAD BEEN REINFORCED BY ASSIGNMENT OF THE DISTRICT COMMANDING GENERAL (MARIO ROSSI) AS HIS DEPUTY. ANDREOTTI DESCRIBED BOTH AS EXPERIENCED MEN CAPABLE OF PUTTING THE RELIEF OPERATION ON AN EFFICIENT FOOTING. THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT NECESSARY CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING ASSISTANCE WAS BEING OBTAINED BY HAVING EACH OF THE 95 PROVINCES SEND AT LEAST ONE ENGINEER TO WORK ON RECONSTRUCTION PROJECTS IN FRIULI.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ROME 15555 231350Z

5. I EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH AMERICAN BUSINESSMAN PAOLUCCI. PRESIDENT FORD'S SUBSEQUENT EXPRESSIONS OF SYMPATHY FOR THE FRIULI DISASTER VICTIMS HAD DONE MUCH TO GALVANIZE ATTENTION IN THE US ON THE NEED FOR RENEWED EMERGENCY AID. I MENTIONED THAT OUR NEW AID EFFORT WOULD BE DIRECTED NOT AT HOUSING, BUT IN CONSTRUCTION OF SCHOOLS AND HOMES FOR THE AGED. ANDREOTTI CON-

SIDERED THESE PLANS EXCELLENT; THE IMPORTANT THING WAS THAT  
THEY WOULD BE A PHYSICAL EXPRESSION OF US INTEREST AND CON-  
CERN. HE SIAD THE PEOPLE HAVE CONFIDENCE IN US AND OUR ABILITY  
TO GET THE JOB DONE. VOLPE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, MEETING REPORTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 23 SEP 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ShawDG  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976ROME15555  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760360-0913  
**From:** ROME  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760928/aaaaaxka.tel  
**Line Count:** 119  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION SS  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ShawDG  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 05 MAY 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <05 MAY 2004 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <31 AUG 2004 by ShawDG>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** AMBASSADOR'S MEETING WITH ANDREOTTI SUMMARY: NOTING THAT I HAD JUST RETURNED FROM WASHINGTON, I BEGAN MY HOUR-LONG CALL ON PRIME MINISTER ANDREOTT  
**TAGS:** PINT, SWEL, IT, US, (ANDREOTTI, GIULIO), (VOLPE, JOHN A)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006